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LECHIN OQUENDO TO TRY TO FORM WORKERS' ELECTORAL FRONT

FY130236 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Mar 79 FY

[Text] Juan Lechin Oquendo's branch of the Revolutionary Party of the National Left [PRIN] is advocating the creation of a front with all workers and political groups whose guidelines and objectives are similar to those of the PRIN. This was announced by Juan Lechin Oquendo during a press conference held this afternoon at the headquarters of the Bolivian Mineworkers Federation. Juan Lechin Oquendo explained that the PRIN left the Revolutionary Front of the Left [FRI], thus recovering its political independence, a goal coveted since last year's frustrated elections.

[Begin Lechin Oquendo recording] We have appointed a five-member committee to seek contact with groups of workers and miners in the cities and in rural areas and with other parties representing the interests of workers, miners and peasants. [end recording]

The PRIN, which is a splinter of the formerly powerful National Revolutionary Movement [MNR], is currently facing a crisis of major proportions, according to its own leaders. The PRIN, which during last year's elections supported the Amurrio-Chungara ticket, is now divided into three factions due to factional interests among its leaders.

The branch led by (Daniel Saravia) and others joined the Popular and Democratic Unity Front [FUDP] which is headed by Hernan Siles Zuazo. Another branch of the PRIN is currently attempting to make a pact with Paz Estenssoro's branch of the MNP. In this effort are engaged (Lidia Gaynor), one of the founders of the PRIN, and other top figures. Now, according to latest reports, Lechin Oquendo is currently making efforts to unite the ultraleft.

SEVEN TUNGSTEN-PRODUCING NATIONS TO MEET IN SANTA CRUZ

FY130140 La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 12 Mar 79 FY

[Text] Representatives of tungsten-producing countries will meet in Santa Cruz on 19 and 20 March. Carlos Iturralde, president of the association of tungsten producers, reported that this meeting will be attended by delegates from the PRC, Australia, Thailand, Peru, Spain and Portugal.

The main issues which will be discussed are: Analysis of the international trend for tungsten, analysis of maximum and minimum prices, price control, buffer stock and the international tungsten symposium that will be held in Stockholm in September. Iturralde added that the foreign delegation will meet with President David Padilla to convey their greetings. He also added that owners of Bolivian medium-size tungsten enterprises will participate in the meeting.

BRIEFS

PROJECT TO IRRIGATE CHACO--Jorge Escobar Sanchez, president of the Bolivian Development Corporation [CBF], indicated that his organization is working on a project to irrigate 28,000 hectares located on the right bank of the Pilcomayo River. The project, called (Achapera), stems from an agreement recently signed between CBF, the national power company [ENDE] and the Public Works and Development Committee of Tarija. Escobar Sanchez indicated that CBF is awaiting the results of a feasibility study financed by a $560,000 loan from a Canadian firm. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Mar 79 FY]

ARENA SENATOR CONCERNED OVER RIFT WITH ARGENTINA

PY140044 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Mar 79 PY

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] Senator Luiz Cavalcante [National Renewal Alliance, ARENA, Alagoas State] said that the Argentine-Brazilian talks to reconcile the Itaipu and Corpus projects on the Parana River should be done in solidarity.

Expressing his concern over the present trend of the talks, Senator Cavalcante discussed the exchange of rather harsh diplomatic notes between the two countries. After stating that Argentine and Brazilian economic interests do not conflict, Senator Cavalcante concluded by paraphrasing former Argentine President Roque Saenz Pena: "Nothing can separate the two countries: Neither Corpus nor Itaipu."

STEEL WORKERS STRIKE IN SAO PAULO, CRIPPLE MAJOR INDUSTRIES

PY131631 Paris AFP in Spanish 1246 GMT 13 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo 13 Mar (AFP)--About 200,000 steelworkers in the great industrial suburb of Sao Paulo went on strike today after the breakdown of salary negotiations and the refusal of employers to accept the creation of labor union delegates in the enterprises. A labor union source said that 80 percent of the workers obeyed the decision to strike. Most of the big multinational enterprises are among the factories brought to a standstill, including Volkswagen (40,000), Ford, Mercedes Benz, Saab-Scania and Chrysler in the motor vehicle sector, and Philips, General Electric, Alcan and Otis in others.

MDB Deputy's Reaction

PY140125 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Mar 79 PY

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] Commenting on the strike called by steelworkers in the Sao Paulo industrial region, deputy Alberto Goldman [Brazilian Democratic Movement, MDB, Sao Paulo State] stated today that the workers have grown tired of a type of development which thus far has only benefited a minority, making a few people rich and benefiting large national and multinational companies.

GEISEL ESPOUSES SYSTEM OF STRONG PARTIES

PY130053 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 12 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia--During an impromptu speech delivered this afternoon at the Planalto Palace while receiving the Executive Committee of the National Renewal Alliance [ARENA], the president stated that he was determined to strengthen the party because in order to govern in a democratic regime, strong parties are needed to insure political support for the government.

General Geisel also added that the executive branch can be strong only when it can count on the support of the legislative branch. The chief of state called for an early morning meeting tomorrow to bid farewell to his Cabinet, and another for the afternoon to bid farewell to other authorities.

PINOCHET TELLS YOUTH DEMOCRACY NOT 'PANACEA'

PY132051 Paris AFP in Spanish 1808 GMT 13 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 13 Mar (AFP)--The president of Chile, Gen Augusto Pinochet, said today that those who shout in favor of democracy are our adversaries representing Soviet imperialism.

This government will hand over the leadership of the nation to its youth, asserted Pinochet during a meeting with his supporters from the National Unity Youth Front.

During the encounter, the youths offered to the president of the military junta to change their organization to a front for the new institution.

Referring to the participation of youth in government, Pinochet stated that he wants the cooperation of new people, with more enthusiasm, so that the nation can grow and become stronger. Unfortunately, he warned, there are some naive individuals who speak of democracy, convinced that it is the panacea for all the country's growth and activity.

The chief of state identified these sectors with Soviet imperialism, but seemed confident that we would emerge victorious because, he said, I have the youth of Chile behind me.

YOUTH DIES IN EXPLOSION AT PRESUMED BOMB FACTORY

PY131448 Paris AFP in Spanish 1413 GMT 13 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 13 Mar (AFP)--The Chilean police have reported that two bombs exploded here today causing one casualty. This is the first victim since the bomb attacks started in this city. A youth died when he was handling an explosive in what was apparently a bomb factory of the outlawed Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), according to police sources. First reports note that the victim was a member of the Anselmo Bogarin Operation Command, an MIR cell that last week claimed responsibility for the kidnaping of a bus loaded with workers. The violent bomb explosion destroyed the house where presumably the bombs were made. The house is located in the Pudahuel neighborhood in the western sector of Santiago.

Interior Minister's Condemnation

PY131449 Paris AFP in Spanish 0149 GMT 13 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 12 Mar (AFP)--Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez indicated today that the Chilean Government believes the recent attacks with explosives that have occurred here are condemnable actions. The minister also indicated that the security services are taking all necessary measures to locate the perpetrators. Fernandez stated that "we are studying all the background data in order to verify whether these attacks are part of an organized campaign.

TURBAY AYALA MEETS WITH SOVIET OFFICIAL IN CARACAS

PA131610 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Caracas--During a meeting held here with Supreme Soviet First Deputy Chairman Vasiliy Kuznetsov, Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala made arrangements to visit the Soviet Union in (?June). The meeting, which lasted over 1 hour, was held in Turbay's suite in a luxurious Caracas hotel. The Colombian president said later that aside from making arrangements for his visit to Moscow, he and Kuznetsov had reviewed the latest international developments, such as the Sino-Vietnamese conflict, the Iranian crisis, the Mideast situation and others.

Afterward, Turbay received British Foreign Secretary [as heard] Ted Rowlands, but the topics that were discussed have not been disclosed.

In the afternoon, the Colombian president presented his official salute to new Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, whom he will decorate at noon today with the special Order of San Carlos during a special ceremony slated to be held at the presidential residence of La Casona.

This afternoon the two chiefs of state will reportedly discuss a number of bilateral problems. Their agenda will undoubtedly include the maritime delimitation conflict off the Guajira Peninsula and the alleged slaying of numerous Colombians in the Andean region on the border between the two countries. Turbay already referred to this latter problem during a breakfast held Saturday with the outgoing and incoming Venezuelan presidents, Carlos Andres Perez and Luis Herrera Campins, respectively. According to a source close to the Colombian presidency, Turbay presented the matter very seriously and demanded a thorough investigation that would obtain specific results. The Colombian president has promised to hold a news conference on Wednesday before returning to Bogota.

CTC BESET BY DIVISION, CONCERN OVER VELANDIA ISSUE

PA090250 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Mar 79 PA

[Text] A political crisis with unforeseeable consequences has erupted within the Confederation of Workers of Colombia [CTC] because of the approval of a document that will be presented by the CTC's Liberal Party leaders at the party's national convention tomorrow.

Supernoticias learned that the bitter internal confrontation within the CTC occurred after the Liberal bloc of CTC leaders drafted a document demanding that the leadership of the party intervene directly in the Colombian labor movement by means of specific social programs.

While the document was being drafted, the Liberal executives of the CTC asked the Conservative bloc, comprised of four CTC leaders, including Manuel Felipe Hurtado, the president of the organization, to leave the (?room) where the declaration was being prepared. Hurtado and the three other Conservatives left the room after exchanging bitter words with the bloc of Liberal leaders. It was noted also that the CTC president has a great interest in making the CTC more conservative, in view of his having dismissed 18 members of the Liberal Party, who constitute a majority within the CTC, from their posts.

The CTC, which is facing a deep-seated political conflict among its leaders, today asked President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas not to grant a safe-conduct to Marco Antonio Velandia because of his implication in the killing of Jose Raquel Mercado.

In a message sent to the president and the foreign minister, the CTC stated that, in order to keep Colombian courts from being mocked once more and to prevent the vile assassination of the organization's top leader from going unpunished, a safe-conduct should not be granted to Marco Antonio Velandia, who is charged with the killing and who, under the pretext of political persecution, has sought asylum in the French Embassy solely to avoid having to answer to the charges being brought against him.

At the same time, the CTC requested an audience with President Turbay to discuss the investigations carried out by the authorities regarding Mercado's murder.

FARC REPORTEDLY ATTACKS TOWN OF GRANADA

PA131444 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Popayan--(?Eighty) members of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] this morning attacked the town of Granada, in the western mountain range, in El Tambo municipality. They sacked the stores and, after having harangued the people, fled back into the mountains.

The authorities reported that the rebels did not use any weapons but merely distributed subversive literature. However, other sources reported that a peasant, Patrocinio Montilla, was murdered by the guerrillas. The attack was led by Jose (Cabanzo), member of the Sixth Front of the FARC, RCN reporter Guillermo Munoz reported.

Joint army and police forces were sent to the area to pursue the rebels.

Report Denied

PA140203 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--In a communique this afternoon, the 6th Brigade Command stationed in Cali denied reports of an alleged guerrilla attack on the town of Granada in El Tambo sector, Cauca Department.

The communique added that there had been a clash between the Toissa and Montilla families, residents in the area, but gave no further information. Yesterday, several newspapers reported an 80-man attack in Granada in what appeared to be renewal of guerrilla activities. The government, however, denied such reports.

TROOPS INFLICT HEAVY BLOW ON M-19 IN RISARALDA

PA131210 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 8 Mar 79 p 1 PA

[Text] Pereira, 7 Mar (editorial office)--The "Operative Unity" (Unidad Operativa) of the Military Institutes Brigade yesterday captured 16 persons, including 2 women, as the result of an important operation in the Quinchia municipality, Risaralda Department, against members of the 19 April Movement (M-19).

Military intelligence told this newspaper that during the operation the brigade members confiscated several short-range weapons and some munitions, but that they did not find any documents related to activities of the 19 April Movement (M-19).

Some of the presumed guerrillas were identified as Jorge Rojas, Gonzalo Aricapa, Justiniano Arce, Teresa Mejia, Bernardo Silva Salinas, Marco Aurelio Pineda, Alejandro de Jesus Restrepo, Horacio Restrepo, Arturo Osorio, Hernando Alarcon Carbonel, Evelio Gonzalez and Jose Antonio Uribe. The others were not identified.

It was officially reported that the 16 prisoners were sent to the Bogota Military Institutes Brigade, which is currently investigating the theft of weapons from the military outpost and M-19 activities.

JUSTICE MINISTER ASKS GUERRILLAS TO SURRENDER

PA081925 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--Justice Minister Hugo Escobar Sierra reiterated here today his strong appeal to guerrilla groups to put down their arms. He said he hoped that peace and tranquillity would return to the country shortly. The justice minister said that subversive groups would do well to return to Colombia's peaceloving society rather than persisting in their unproductive struggle.

Minister Escobar Sierra hopes the guerrilla movements operating in several areas will heed the government's call and put down their arms for their own good.

AGREEMENT ON LIBERAL PARTY DIRECTORATE REACHED

PA100414 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Mar 79 PA

[Jairo Humberto Rice report from San Carlos Palace]

[Excerpt] In the course of a meeting that has lasted almost 100 minutes, President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and a depu tation have agreed on an eight-person Liberal Party directorate. The meeting is still underway. However, one of the persons attending the session has confirmed to Supernoticias that the Liberal Party directorate will consist of the following eight members: Simon Bosa Lopez, Alberto Santofimio Botero, Carlos Holmes Trujillo, Gabriel Fernandez Jaramillo, Alvaro Uribe Rueda, Jorge Mario Eastman, Victor Mosquera and Augusto Espinosa Valderrama.

POSSIBLE ITAIPU DELAYS ELICIT CONCERN

PY131441 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Mar 79 p 12 FY

[Editorial: "We Are More Interested in the Dam Which Operates First"]

[Text] It is sometimes useful to return to the past in order to appropriately evaluate current reality. In this case, it is necessary to recall that at the time of negotiating the Itaipu treaty, the nation was told that "Paraguay would not have to contribute anything" in order to convince it that the binational undertaking would basically be shouldered by Brazil's efforts because that country would contribute the required financing and Paraguay, on the other hand, while contributing very little would receive benefits.

Now some years have passed--not very many, but sufficient for clearing up certain points: To begin with, the estimated cost of the project is currently about four times greater than the estimate at the time the treaty was signed.

Also, we can examine the problems--which may or may not be real--that are being discussed regarding the financing of the giant project, even adding the fact that these problems could cause Itaipu to suffer an important delay in completion.

No matter that old attitude (although it only dates back 5 years) of "Paraguay not having to contribute anything" has developed into another, totally different attitude.

Putting aside other facts that could support the above assertion, it can simply be indicated that recently it has not only been Brazilian officials who have been negotiating loans for Itaipu in the international financial market, but Paraguayans are also actively participating in these negotiations. Brazil could not finance Itaipu on its own and has had to resort to external loans. But it would seem that there is something more to this because it seems that potential money lenders are asking for the intervention of Paraguayan officials, and also they are only granting a fraction of the requested sums. The danger that could emerge from the extraordinary increase in the cost estimates for Itaipu and the hesitation on credit--if it exists--lies in the delay that could affect the project.

The national debt generated by the construction of Itaipu will have to be paid, as will the interest that will accrue because of the delay in its conclusion.

Itaipu is an irreversible project, but if it is confirmed that there are clouds hovering over its scheduled program, it could be that it will not be the first large hydroelectric plant on the Parana River.

Given the fact that what basically interests the country is a finished and operating plant, perhaps a cold overall analysis of the matter should be made to clarify the options on the basis of their respective viability.

It is necessary to remain optimistic regarding the fact that the difficulties that Itaipu may be experiencing will be overcome as quickly as possible. This may depend quite a lot on the confidence the new Brazilian Government inspires among financial centers, which are always sensitive. If this is not so, Itaipu could be exposed to a delay in its conclusion. This is the hypothesis that Paraguay must consider.

CALL ISSUED FOR REACTIVATING POLITICAL PARTIES

PY091412 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0236 GMT 9 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Montevideo, 8 Mar (LATIN)--The National (Blanco) Party, whose activities have been in recess since 1973, today demanded the public reactivation of political parties within the order of priorities demanded by the institutionalization process implemented by the civilian-military government of President Aparicio Mendez. The Blanco Party, which, together with the Colorado Party, comprise the trends of traditional opinion in this country and whose resurgence would be under consideration by officials in preparation for the presidential elections to be held in 1981, expressed its viewpoints in a document distributed among international news agencies.

In the document, the Blanco Party states that an essential condition of "returning to normality" is that "the first step to be taken will be that of achieving the normal, public and regular functioning of political parties." The document adds that only in this manner will the provisions of the current constitution be fulfilled according to which "the state will guarantee the broadest freedom for all political parties."

Referring to the future activity of these parties, the document states that the parties' right to freely organize themselves must be recognized, but explained, however, that "the national party does not confuse free activity with anarchical internal functioning, much less with the action of groups or organizations which, according to the constituent, tend to violently destroy the fundamental basis of national life."

The document later states that the internal laws regulating all parties must be closely adjusted to the principles of democratic legality, and adds that the national party "is ready to contribute patriotically and disinterestedly to the great task of returning to a representative government and restoring the national harmony so greatly desired by the whole country."

By the end of February, local press sources had published details of the presumed project seeking the reactivation of political parties, which are in recess--a subject under consideration by the government. These norms will regulate the activity of the parties looking toward the 1980 plebiscite and the 1981 elections, during which, according to a government report a year and a half ago, one single candidate will be presented, a candidate chosen by common agreement between Blancos and Colorados, with the approval of the armed forces.

According to the project, the political parties will propose only one candidate for every post being sought, thus abolishing the so-called law of platforms [ley de lemas] which allowed each party to add in their favor the votes received by each faction or member group, then deciding internally on the post in question in favor of the candidate receiving the most votes within the so-called party platform. The parties will have to establish permanent centers of civic education and have a special category for members under 18 years of age who will not be able to participate in party elections, the document added.

The document also established that within 90 days following the resolution which provisionally recognizes a political party, its officials must present the electoral court with the first complete list of adherents, attaching two copies of the affiliation forms accrediting each adherent. The long document also included guidelines regulating party propaganda, the use of symbols, names and photographs of national heroes, the use of which will be forbidden. These guidelines also forbid reference to or elements which may represent or refer to nations, organizations, political parties or any foreign association.

The traditional Uruguayan political parties (Blanco and Colorado) have been in recess since 1973, while all Marxist organizations have been proscribed since last year.

GENERAL REITERATES GOAL OF ELECTION WITH PARTIES

PY122101 Paris AFP in Spanish 2024 GMT 12 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 12 Mar (AFP)--The holding of elections in Uruguay with the participation of democratic political parties was reiterated by Gen Abdon Raimundez in a statement published here today.

Political and diplomatic circles have heard rumors during the past few days about a possible postponement of the elections scheduled for 1981.

Although he did not mention specific dates, the chief of the 4th Army Division admitted that there is already some attrition in the government and emphasized the need to make personnel changes.

Raimundez said: "What was announced will take place and the revolutionary process will hold elections in which democratic political parties will intervene to comprise the future government."

According to the words of the high-ranking officer, "there has already been attrition which is natural in any government and; therefore, there is a need to replace the men who have left (desgastado) during the administration."

Because of this, he repeated, "the process that the nation began in February 1973 will end according to the announcements made by the armed forces."

LOPEZ-PORTILLO SPURNS 'CAPITALIST INDIVIDUALISM'

PA131700 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2115 GMT 10 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Mar (EFE)--Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo today condemned "capitalist individualism" [individualismo capitalista], saying that it distorts concepts and pits man against the state.

In a long written message released today, the Mexican president defended the government's actions and said that its goal is social justice. He outlined a goal of "unlimited transformations" in place of "simple reforms" to build his country.

"Unlike individual rights, social rights demand action from the state, a positive conduct to protect man's position vis-a-vis the economy and capital," the presidential message adds.

"At the same time, these rights entail a mandate to the state to watch over, intervene in and guarantee respect for them," says the message, written as the prologue of a historical volume published by the Chamber of Deputies.

"Men are dutybound to perform a socially useful activity but also have the right to demand that society guarantee them a dignified human existence in exchange for their work," the presidential message says.

These statements are apparently aimed at rebutting the premise repeatedly expressed by Mexican private enterprise that the state must limit its intervention in the economic field.

Lopez-Portillo said that individual rights constitute a sort of sphere of free action beyond which the state must not make inroads. He said, however, that "capitalist individualism" distorts concepts, conceives individual rights as personal rights against the state and sets absolute curbs on government action. This "capitalist individualism" forces the state into "inaction" and assigns to the state the sole function of guaranteeing its free exercise, Lopez-Portillo added.

Noting that Mexico adopted the fundamental decision to "live within social democracy" at the end of its revolution, Lopez-Portillo added that the social rights of class are the guarantee of enforcement of individual rights within freedom. He added that they are the possibility people reserve for themselves of taking action vis-a-vis political and economic forces and satisfying their goal of enjoying and developing "a real freedom apart from needs."

The president admitted that, because of its social nature, Mexican democracy is open to political and cultural criticism. He conceded that despite reforms to promote political participation and to give everyone an opportunity to join government cadres, there remains a picture of apparent contradiction between the idea of democracy and the political structure "demanded by government action."

There is also an apparent contradiction between the political equality of all members of the community and the inequity attributed to those who have authority, he noted. The chief of state said that it is necessary to dispel this contradiction, "which a few seek to eliminate through a spiritual-like use of violence in the name of democracy."

In order to do this, changes should be multiplied and mobility should be brought about in accordance with the laws, while encouraging the organization of the various groups that comprise the nation, he said.

"Above all, all of us must be aware of the obedience that the nation demands for the fulfillment of its objectives, of the attention we are all obliged to give to the pressing needs of social justice," he noted. The president indicated that Mexico's transformations must be profound and quick, rejecting the simplistic idea that reform constitutes a possible means of recovering lost stability.

"Such a concept, which is now in disuse, must be replaced by an indefinite number of transformations and a constant adaptation of the juridical order to the needs of a rapidly evolving world," he indicated.

TELEPHONE SERVICE RESTORED THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

PA132313 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1558 GMT 13 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Mar (EFE)--Telephone services have been completely restored throughout the country despite the strike called last night by the workers of the Mexican telephone company that continued today.

The government took over the company, in which it holds a majority of shares, when the 22,000 telephone company union workers decided to go on strike.

Telephone service, which was interrupted last night for approximately 60 minutes, has been kept functioning by some 2,000 loyal workers. Mexico City police quartered all its units and established an emergency vigilance operation constantly in touch with radio and television stations which remained on the air all night. The Red Cross also had ambulances patrolling the city. By morning, there were no reports of any serious incidents.

ROMANIA SUBMITS PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE CRUDE OIL

PA112107 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 10 Mar 79 PA

[Pedro Talavera report]

[Text] Romania has expressed interest in purchasing Mexican oil and has also offered to process and market it concurrently with Mexico. The announcement was made today by Virgil Teodorescu, vice president of the Romanian Parliament, who is visiting Mexico at the head of a delegation of Romania's Grand National Assembly.

[Begin recording--question] Is there any possibility of effecting an exchange with Mexico to develop our agriculture?

[Teodorescu] [Words indistinct] I must stress that, on the occasion of the visit by Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu in 1975, an agreement was signed regarding agricultural assistance and cooperation, assistance that Romania could give to Mexico. There is already an agreement between our countries regarding cooperation in the field of science and technology. Based on the existing real and material possibilities, it can be said that Romania may contribute to the development of agriculture. Mexico has the adequate economic framework to facilitate this task. Actually, these exchanges are on the verge of materializing. (?So), it can be said that thus far nothing has been done. Exchanges of (?specialists) and machinery have already been effected by our countries. My country is interested in purchasing crude oil from Mexico on a mutually advantageous basis. In this sense, we have already made a proposal to Mexico to buy Mexican hydrocarbons and crude in order to refine and market them in Romania. [end recording]

PRD REGISTRATION PROCESS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

PA132128 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 12 Mar 79 p 1-A PA

[Text] In just 8 hours more than 50,000 followers were registered yesterday in the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), vividly showing that the revolutionary process that the country is currently undergoing genuinely reflects the will of the people and that the PRD represents the continuation of an era of change begun in 1968. The high number of followers surpassed all estimates made by PRD leaders and this prompted the issuing of specific instructions to the grassroots to provisionally suspend the registration process that started at 0800 yesterday.

The figure of 30,000 followers required by the electoral law for the official creation of a nationwide political party was fully exceeded by the flood of signatures of Panamanian citizens aware of the role of social renewal that the national revolutionary process has played in the past 10 years. From the early morning hours Panamanians of all social classes, colors and beliefs responded to the conscientious appeal of the PRD which, through the inspiration of leader Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, has become the first Panamanian political party of the current historical moment.

PRD OFFICIALS COMMENT ON REACTION TO PARTY REGISTRATION

PA132200 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Nicolas Gonzalez-Revilla, secretary general of the Revolutionary Democratic Party [PRD], and Ascanio Villalaz, deputy secretary general of the same political group, made statements on party registration to this television station. Let us listen to the important statements that these two PRD leaders made:

[Begin Gonzalez-Revilla recording] In being specific about the registration figure, we can already tell you, Tino, that we had 55,110 adherents on Sunday.

[Question from unidentified speaker] Engineer Villalaz, since you are actively participating in this interview, we would like to know why the registration period was closed on Sunday when everybody was under the impression that it would go on for one week. We would also like to know when you plan to reopen the inscription period.

[Villalaz] Tino, this has created a lot of problems on the national level. That evening, after we received the initial reports, the organizing committee of the party held an emergency meeting in which the need to close the registration process in order to initiate organizational mechanisms at the provincial and district levels and to create conditions for convoking an early party national congress was discussed. That was a difficult meeting. It was a heated meeting. There was no consensus and it was decided by the majority to suspend the registration period in order to ask the electoral tribunal to take the registration records and begin organizing the convocation of a national congress.

However, that very evening, at dawn actually, since we had to report to the political coordinators, there was a rejection [of the decision]. There has been criticism expressed not only in telegrams, but also through radio networks at the provincial level in Chiriqui, Colon, Cocle, Herrera and Los Santos. This has forced us to call an urgent meeting of the party's organizing committee, provincial coordinators, legislators and vice presidents who are members of the PRD, which is scheduled to take place in our party headquarters tomorrow at 1500 for the purpose of reconsidering the decision. We never imagined that there was so much demand at the national level for the reopening of the party registration process.

As Nicolas Gonzalez-Revilla noted, the registration figure was really tremendous. It was more than we had expected. As a result of this discussion, it was decided that the best thing to do was to begin preparations for the congress before continuing with the campaign. Tomorrow's meeting will be behind closed doors, of course. We have been asked for the names of persons who proposed this measure at the organizing committee meeting. For obvious reasons we will not say. However, we do hope that tomorrow by 1700 or 1800 at the latest, the party will announce whether or not the registration process will be reinitiated at the national level.

[Question] Engineer Villalaz, could you tell us on what date you plan to hold the congress?

[Villalaz] According to law, once the registration period is closed the electoral tribunal has to study the registration records and has to establish the exact number of persons who registered in the party. It has to inform us when, in its opinion, the congress should take place. We estimate that it should take place within four months after the inscription period is closed, since we have to create conditions for organizing meetings at corregimiento, district and provincial levels.

There is something else; something that is very important and that characterizes the democratic life of our party. There must be elections at the district level. In these elections those who have signed the PRD registration records in the hands of the electoral tribunal will participate. These persons will directly elect those who will represent them at the national convention where, in addition to electing the party's national leadership, the statutes, declaration of principles and the party's platform will be discussed and then approved.

[Question] Dr Nicolas Gonzalez-Revilla, since we have been talking about figures, could you tell us about the economic aspect? How much money was involved in Sunday's massive registration?

[Gonzalez-Revilla] Of course, Tino. It is not as much as the opposition thinks or what many of our militants estimate. We want to maintain the confidentiality of the figures because we have not been authorized by the organizing committee to make this type of announcement. However, I can tell you that it was a moderate amount. This makes us feel very proud of the people and the spontaneous support with which they went to the registration tables throughout the country. They went completely voluntarily. This has filled us with great enthusiasm. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

OPERATION CHECKMATE RESUMED; GOALS 'PRACTICALLY' MET

PA131639 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Mar 79 PA

[Text] A Costa Rican Civil Guard battalion yesterday resumed Operation Checkmate on the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border. The objective of the operation is to capture guerrillas and Nicaraguan soldiers who cross into Costa Rican territory.

The operation, which was suspended over the weekend to give policemen a 48-hour rest, has been underway for the past 10 days. So far, it has resulted in the arrest of a dozen members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

The cleanup efforts in the border area have been coordinated with OAS civilian observers who are in the region to observe developments after a series of incidents led Costa Rica to break diplomatic relations with Managua in November. As part of the border efforts, several garrisons have been placed at points considered to be possible sites of new confrontations.

Col Fernando Munoz Marin, chief of the Costa Rican public forces, has said that 90 percent of the Operation Checkmate cleanup campaign has been completed. The officer said that the three goals of the operation have been practically attained: searching for possible armed groups, establishing peace in areas that were reportedly infiltrated by the Somozist National Guard and assuming control of several hills that are considered to be strategic for the defense of Penas Blancas.

As a result of the Operation Checkmate cleanup campaign, authorities of the Public Security Ministry have decided that it is imperative to create a northern command in La Cruz Canton. The base of operations of the command would be manned by no less than 200 troops. This garrison would cooperate with Civil Guardsmen and would be responsible for maintaining peace, safeguarding the country's sovereignty and preventing cattle smuggling.

PAPERS PUBLISH DOCUMENT, DENOUNCE OPERATION CHECKMATE

PA132245 Paris AFP in Spanish 1621 GMT 13 Mar 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 13 Mar (AFP)--According to a document attributed to the Interior Ministry that local newspapers have published here today, the purpose behind Operation Checkmate being carried out by Costa Rican public forces along the Nicaraguan border, is "to disorganize, demoralize and ridicule guerrilla leaders."

The document, which was also sent to the Legislative Assembly, says that the Costa Rican authorities are trying to eliminate Sandinist leaders operating in the border region, the newspaper LA REPUBLICA reported. In order to carry out this plan, a strip of land cleared of all vegetation and obstacles that can be controlled from the air and also a ring of informers and scout posts will be established "to strangle" the guerrillas operating in the region, the newspaper added. There is also a restricted zone along the border where anyone is considered a guerrilla if he cannot identify himself immediately, the document says.

These reports coincide with a communique of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) Foreign Committee published here and with another of the United People, a Nicaraguan opposition movement, denouncing a possible coup d'etat that will be carried out with massive repression in Nicaragua and in neighboring countries.

The Costa Rican Socialist Party has also denounced Operation Checkmate as an attempt to neutralize "the Nicaraguan patriots who are struggling against the National Guard near the border." The Socialists are sure that Operation Checkmate is being carried out in Gen Anastasio Somoza's interest. They demand that Costa Rican Civil Guardsmen be called back immediately and the operation discontinued.

In the meantime, Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey yesterday was questioned by representatives of various groups of the Legislative Assembly in connection with the importation of arms from Venezuela that are being used in Operation Checkmate. Opposition deputies accused the government of violating legal norms by bringing in arms without asking the permission of the Legislative Assembly.

Minister Echeverria said that these arms, the greater part of which are 500 M-14 machineguns, were brought to the country on loan under a temporary importation system for a period of 6 months, which can be extended.

However, Deputy Armando Arauz, leader of the opposition wing in the Legislative Assembly, announced that a meeting will be held today to analyze the situation which he termed "an alarming process of militarization.

MINISTRY EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER STOLEN DOCUMENT

PA132246 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 13 Mar 79 PA

[Text] It was learned this morning that the Public Security and Government Ministry has begun an investigation into the removal of a document on Operation Checkmate. The concern in the ministry is due to the fact that the document was stolen from high ranking circles and there is uncertainty as to whether a truly secret document could be similarly stolen in the future.

On the other hand, it was announced that the document in question was drafted on 2 January, but between that time and the date that the operation was initiated, substantial changes were made to the plan. Therefore, the document was only a draft.

Spokesmen for the Public Security Ministry stated this morning that there is nothing strange about the language used in the document on Operation Checkmate, since this is the usual language used by that sector of public administration.

The spokesmen said that apparently the only areas that posed problems were the titles given to the president of the republic and the security minister. However, he said that these are normal. The minister said that although Costa Rica has no army, persons in charge of public forces have carried out studies in this regard, and language of this kind is necessary for greater clarity.

NICARAGUAN TRUCK SEIZURE, PROVOCATIONS DENOUNCED

PA140150 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 13 Mar 79 PA

[Station commentary]

[Text] The announcement made by Somoza this morning that Nicaragua had captured a tractor-trailer that was carrying arms from Costa Rica is something that we doubt because Mr Somoza has made repeated announcements and all of them have been aimed at somehow involving the Costa Rican Government in their domestic affairs. The Costa Rican people and government have nothing to do with those affairs.

Fortunately, it seems more like a gross Somoza maneuver than a good news report. Nobody believes Somoza, not even his Lord's Prayer. Somoza said that none of his little warplanes had crossed into Costa Rica, but the Costa Ricans are tired of witnessing the strafing of Costa Rican territory, the invasion by Nicaraguan soldiers, the killing of Costa Ricans by National Guard criminals and the capture of Costa Rican nationals and their abduction to Nicaraguan territory.

The OAS must intervene to obtain the release of the driver and the tractor-trailer they captured because Somoza, with all his ears and businesses in Costa Rica, seems to have drawn a Machiavelian plan to get the Costa Rican Government involved in something in which it obviously is not involved. The Costa Rican Government is not interested in participating in such actions.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT ROMERO ISSUES WARNING ON VIOLENCE

PA132304 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2229 GMT 13 Mar 79 PA

[By Rene Contreras]

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Salvadoran President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero today warned that his government will know how to act within the law against subversion in view of the wave of agitation being experienced in San Salvador. The president gave his message over a national radio network, referring to the paralyzation of approximately 10 factories that have stopped operating in solidarity with a strike by workers at two soda and beer bottling companies who feel that their economic demands, among others, have not been met by management.

The president gave an account of the incidents, noting that the people's free movement has been hindered and that an attempt against freedom to work has been made. General Romero said that a 15-day-old de facto strike has been the pretext for seditious and subversive movements to carry out all kinds of actions against people and property. He said that several buses have been burned, causing large losses to their owners and affecting the many persons who use this means of transportation.

The president said that subversive elements claim they are struggling on behalf of the interests of the people; but let the people judge, he added. He affirmed that the government is concerned over this situation. It is facing the problem calmly, but this should not be interpreted as apathy or negligence.

We are aware that subversive groups are carrying out their actions to provoke the government and its authorities in order to create chaos in the country and, if possible, make violence--with unforeseeable consequences--erupt, the president warned.

The president appealed to the companies' workers to contribute in any way they could to find general, peaceful and orderly solutions on behalf of the nation's tranquillity. He said that the country's peace, tranquility and welfare demand a united effort from all sectors and solidarity in action. He also asked the workers to be honest in their demands and to have a sincere desire to cooperate in building a better nation for our children.

The president referred to an attack today against the police in which two of them died. He added that these are criminal actions, against which we are fighting because they have nothing to do with labor problems and are nothing more than cold-blooded murder, he said.

He announced that the government has, according to the law, the means to implement drastic measures to prevent serious incidents or the alteration of public order by subversive groups. However, he added that he was sure that the majority of Salvadorans prefer to work without having the country under conditions which, although constitutional, curtail some fundamental freedoms.

The president was referring to the suspension of constitutional guarantees, although he did not specifically mention it. Finally, he appealed to workers and businessmen to find solutions to their problems through the most adequate means.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN PANAMA

PA140214 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0035 GMT 14 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 13 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Gen Anastasio Somoza's government has presented a protest to the Panamanian Government and the newspaper LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA for the publication of an article accusing the Nicaraguan Government of being involved in activities aimed at destabilizing the country and harming Gen Omar Torrijos.

The report was published on 9 March in the newspaper in question and was attributed to ACAN-EFE, citing details gathered by the Panamanian military intelligence service (G-2). According to the article, a Somozist plan to destabilize Panama and harm National Guard Commander Gen Omar Torrijos had been discovered.

The Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic issued a communique today concerning the article. It stated that it must categorically deny such statements because they are false and biased. Furthermore, it stressed that the Nicaraguan Government, led by Gen Anastasio Somoza, has always been and is, by democratic tradition, respectful of the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other states.

The Nicaraguan Government press communique added that Gen Alberto Montealegre, Nicaraguan ambassador to Panama, has presented a protest to the Panamanian Government and the newspaper LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA regarding this report, which is far from the truth and was published for unknown reasons.

CASTRO SPEAKS AT FEU CONGRESS-13 MARCH COMMEMORATION EVENT

Description of Event

FL140202 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Radio and Television Services (Radio Liberacion and Television Channel Six only) at 0130 GMT on 14 March carry live coverage of a ceremony being held at the Lazaro Pena Auditorium of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers in Havana City. The ceremony marks the 22d anniversary of the assault on the presidential palace and the take-over of Radio Reloj Nacional on 13 March 1957 and the official closing of the First Congress of the Federation of University Students (FEU) held at the same auditorium from 11 to 13 March 1979. PCC Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura is the announced main speaker.

Television coverage opens with cameras focusing on the dais as the television announcer describes the scene and explains the purpose of the ceremony. The audience applauds as the curtain opens and cameras focus on Fidel Castro. The Cuban national anthem is then played.

An unidentified student then calls out "Julio Antonio Mella, Mario Casana Diaz, Salvador Alfaro" and other names, and the audience responds "present" after each name is called. Acting as master of ceremony, television announcer Manolo Ortega then sets the scene by announcing the purpose of the ceremony. He further announces that Fidel Castro is presiding over the ceremony, along with members of the party Politburo, Secretariat and Central Committee and other officials.

Ortega then introduces FEU President Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, who begins speaking at 0139 GMT. Robaina stresses the significance of the date and the FEU congress and of the presence of foreign delegations, including the Vietnamese delegation, which gets prolonged applause. He explains that the students who participated in the FEU pledged to be better students and to work for the revolution wherever it is required. He further urges continued struggles against cheating and other bad habits in schools. He concludes at 0144 GMT.

Ortega then introduces Elena Villar at 0145 GMT, and she reads an FEU message to Fidel Castro. She also presents an album of photographs to Castro and expresses admiration and respect for him on behalf of the students. She concludes at 0148 GMT as she is joined by other students chanting: "Viva Fidel" and other indistinct chants lasting several minutes.

Castro then goes to the podium and begins speaking at 0153 GMT. Castro refers to a recent ceremony in which he was not supposed to speak but did so, and now it has happened again. He further explains that Machado Ventura was scheduled to speak. He suggests that Machado Ventura's speech be published in the press "tomorrow."

Fidel Castro Speech

FL140245 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0153 GMT 14 Mar 79 FL

[Speech by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro at ceremony held at the Lazaro Pena Auditorium in Havana City marking the closing of the First Congress of the Federation of University Students (FEU) and 22d anniversary of the 1957 assault on the presidential palace and Radio Reloj Nacional--live]

[Text] Is this on television? [Castro's question to someone on the dais] [chanting of "Fidel" and other indistinct words] Dear comrades: I should have suspected [laughter] that you were going to play a trick on me. [laughter] Of course, this is a bad example because Jaime [Crombet] spoke recently, and I attended the ceremony, and you know what happened. Manolo Ortega introduced me, and I had to speak. This cannot continue all the time. I said that this could not be done every day, and I assured Comrade Machadito [PCC Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, the scheduled speaker] and we agreed that we would come to this ceremony and he would make the speech. He has a speech already prepared.

What am I going to do with Machadito's speech? It is his speech, not mine. [indistinct shouts] But I... [Castro does not complete thought] He does not want to [speak]. I proposed that we consider that his speech has been made, yes, and that it be published in the newspaper tomorrow. [shouts of "no"] Then let Machadito come here to deliver the speech. [indistinct shouts] What do we do? Machadito, come here. No, this is your speech. Let us do something reasonable. [applause] Let us be reasonable in keeping with the resolution of the First FEU Congress. Let us publish this speech tomorrow, [shouts of "yes"] the one Comrade Machadito was going to make here, so that all the people can read it.

I think it is a good speech. [applause] He lent it to me so that I could read it. [applause] It is a serious, formal and systematic speech. It contains all the dates, all the history and all the details. It is the type of speech I cannot deliver here. That is to say, I could say certain things [laughter] inspired by the atmosphere here, inspired by you, inspired by memories and also, let us say without being dramatic, by the emotion we all feel at a cermony such as this one.

I heard the message [from the students to Castro read earlier by student Elena Villar] and it was quite a surprise for me. Time has really passed. The message was read here by a young student who was born precisely in January 1959. Sometimes we distract ourselves and are not aware that years fly by. I am aware that some of the youths who were born at the triumph of the revolution already are in the university and possibly not in the first year but in the second and third years.

I used to have more contacts with the students in the past. I frequently visited the university. But at that time there were one or two or three universities, and now I probably do not even know how many universities we have. We have universities practically in all the provinces. Af first, there were just a few thousand university students. Now we have between 140,000 and 150,000 students in our universities. In other words, our student body has grown extraordinarily and will continue to grow. Perhaps by the time of the Second FEU Congress the number of students will exceed 250,000. In other words, an extraordinary quantitative leap has been achieved. I would not dare assert what the qualitative leap has been. I do not mean politically or revolutionarily. I refer to the educational aspect. I could not say yes or no [as heard], but the question seems to be of extreme importance.

In the political and revolutionary aspect, the comrades who have participated in the congress have given a magnificent and encouraging impression. They assert that the congress has been of high quality, that the problems have been extensively discussed, that serious evaluations have been made and that the problems have been expressed clearly and frankly.

Even the foreign visitors have perceived that spirit and have a very positive opinion of the congress' development. What I can talk about, because I have seen it, lived it, is the difference between that university that we knew and this university of today. What I can really assert is that there is an extraordinary difference both between the social composition of our university student body and the political awareness of that student body. In the past, the university was a fundamental possibility for the families, the children of rich families, for the children of the bourgeoisie, of some small bourgeoisie and, exceptionally, for humble youths of the people.

This does not mean that the student body, despite its social composition, would not be capable of waging historic struggles for the country's interests, for noble causes, for just causes, for progressive causes, because unselfishness, idealism, the capacity for sacrifice are usually tied to the youth. Moreover, it is also true that not all the student mass participated in those battles. In reality perhaps it was a minority of the students, a vanguard of the students. Nevertheless, despite that, in different phases of Cuba's history the students have made their strength felt, have made their combat spirit felt. This was a source of numerous combatants and heroes of our revolutionary causes for independence.

Throughout all those years and even today, the students' awareness is motivated by that martyrology represented by the execution of the students in 1871, and their political awareness, their rebellious spirit, their hatred for injustice was renewed year after year by remembering that savage, monstrous crime perpetrated by the colonial and reactionary forces against those who were called innocent students, but who were innocent just in the sense that they had not committed any crime, but on whose flesh the patriotic feeling and the rebellious spirit of our youth was punished.

Throughout the history of that pseudorepublic which followed after the Yankee intervention, in the struggle against all types of corrupted governments, in the struggle against the Machado tyranny, in the struggle against the Batista tyranny, in the struggle for the revolution that made possible today's present, the students made a very important contribution and shed their generous blood on the path of our current successes and victories. The university always was the center of struggles and center of rebellion in our country's history.

We have had the privilege of knowing two different eras, two different universities, two student bodies which are different in composition, but very similar in a certain aspect, that is in enthusiasm, in revolutionary spirit which appears to us to be the same, that of today's student mass and yesterday's vanguard. We believe we see in you the magnificent rebirth of Mella, Martinez Villena, Trejo and Echeverria.

There is something else similar along these lines. What was the future of the students then? What was the fundamental duty of those students at that time? Could the students devote themselves to their studies and disregard the atmosphere and environment around them? Their duty was to struggle, to go to the streets, organize demonstrations, fight against the repressive forces and suffer attacks, beatings,and, as it happened many times, be killed by bullets.

What future did the students have at that time? In what society did they live? In what future were they going to live?

And when I speak of students I do not mean hundreds of thousands of students. I speak of just a few thousand students in one university that was backward, underdeveloped, lacking equipment and resources, disoriented regarding fields of study and distorted. And then, after their graduation, these students did not have even an assurance of a job, certain work. Those were the conditions in which the students found themselves at that time--sacrifices, many times death, and without any real incentive, any possibility to truly devote themselves and concentrate on their studies.

Has the revolution taken away from the students their field of struggle? No. But their field of struggle has changed radically. In the past, the immediate duty and field of struggle of the students was to tackle every day all types of abuses and injustice and fight violence every day as it is happening with students today in most of the Latin American countries.

On the other hand, the revolution created a much broader and much more universal field of struggle, a gigantic task which is that of making the revolution, building socialism, practicing internationalism and being students, being workers, being soldiers because already there is no contradiction between the government and students, between a soldier and a student, between a policeman and a student [words indistinct]. The student today is student, worker and soldier.

I am absolutely certain that if it were necessary to defend the homeland from an imperialist aggression, there would not be a single one of you who would not demand arms to fight. [prolonged applause] [indistinct chants] That is today's student. Many find it hard to understand the meaning of socialism, and that is precisely what socialism means because oppression has disappeared, man's exploitation of man has disappeared and the government is in the hands of the people.

Because it is a true fact that the most sensitive thermometer of a country's political situation in today's world is the student body. I recall that in those days the minister of education could not show his face at the university. [laughter in the audience] The politicians could not show their faces at the university. A president could not visit a Cuban university, unless he had it surrounded by soldiers, police, patrol cars, tanks and so forth. [more laughter in the audience] The politicans were not able to visit the university. But I ask myself: How many ministers of education are able to visit today the universities in Latin America? How many politicians are able to visit the universities? How many leaders are able to visit the universities?

I repeat: The student body has always been the most sensitive thermometer of the political system under which it lives, of the type of society under which it lives. However, I believe that all of the revolution's ministers of education have been able to visit the universities, [applause] because I believe that Armando visited the universities many times and Fernandez also. I believe that if Asela visits the university you would give her a perfect welcome. Is that so or not? [applause] Moreover, you have a minister of higher education, and I believe he can also visit the universities. [applause]

The party leaders have been here participating with you in the First FEU Congress, an FEU which no longer represents one university but--we could say--dozens of universities. I stressed this because there is nothing more satisfactory for us, the revolutionaries--I mean us, and I am not going to say the old revolutionaries because we do not feel old; let me say, the more veteran revolutionaries that remain--the infinite satisfaction that we feel in this atmosphere of confidence, unity and affection existing between you and us. In reality we are accustomed to this, but this is not just anything. This is what marks the profound difference between the political systems, between a system of oppression and exploitation and a system of equality and justice.

These relations between the revolutionary government and the people, these exemplary relations between the revolutionary government and the students have been the same since the first day of the revolution's triumph. I am sure that this tells a lot to the young representatives of the student movement who have accompanied you in this congress. These relations could not be any other way, because since the first day the people and the revolutionary government were exactly the same thing.

I make these remarks, I repeat, not because it is something new, but I do it as I ponder over, think of the still terrible, hard and bitter situation under which hundreds of thousands of university students live in our Latin America. Every day we read about confrontations, demonstrations, clashes, victims, dead, martyrs, exactly as it was occurring in our fatherland prior to the revolution's triumph. Today our ambitions are much more far-reaching; our thoughts are set on much more distant goals.

We no longer think of universities as being different from the people. We already think of universities as being an objective of the people, of the masses. We think of a gigantic university. We think of an entire nation studying. And what are we today to some extent? What is our country today but a gigantic university? What can be said of a country that already has 1 million students at the intermediate level? What can be said of a country which has more than 60,000 workers studying? What can be said of a country where all its workers already are making plans so that our entire labor force will complete at least the intermediate level of schooling, a country which already can think of the date when all its workers will have preuniversity schooling as a minimum? What else can you call this but the threshold of an entire nation studying and even studying at the universities.

One of our problems today is the many thousands of workers who, having completed the workers' [curriculum] or about to complete it, want to go on to university studies. And because of the increase in students, all the resources assigned to universities are not enough to satisfy these needs. We now are involved in analyzing it and determining how to do it because this big movement of workers studying in the workers' [curriculum] forces us to find solutions so that it [the movement] is not interrupted, and to think of means and ways by which these workers can go on to higher educational studies. We do not have enough classrooms, laboratories, professors and equipment. The constructions which increasingly grow each year are not enough. And we have to distinguish between regular students and workers who can attend systematic courses and workers who can take directed studies so that we can continue with the idea of making university education universal and of making it possible someday for any and all citizens of this country to go on to higher educational studies in one way or another.

You, university students, will not be condemned to be the people's sorcerers, the people's magicians, a strange individual, or be like the one who claims to be an engineer, or a doctor or a lawyer because he knows much in a nation of illiterates. Someday you will be engineers among engineers, lawyers among lawyers, doctors among doctors. You do not believe it? I do. I believe it more than you do, because if I did not believe it I could not have believed yesterday what I am seeing today. [prolonged applause]

I see you, and because I see you I believe in the future. Furthermore, I believe in the future more than ever because our mighty, vigorous and extraordinary student and university treasure of today was something absolutely impossible to imagine in the past. [It was impossible to imagine] our current university system, its prospects and the idea that by the end of the next 5-year period [1981-85] we will be able to have around 300,000 university students. And the demand is greater. If our universities do not grow at a faster pace, it is not because of a shortage of candidate students but because of the lack of resources. We have discussed this subject on other occasions, especially in talks with workers.

At a relatively recent date, we said that in the future a person with a sixth-grade education would be illiterate and a person with basic secondary schooling would be almost illiterate, almost illiterate.

For the first time in history socialism creates the possibility of reaching the highest goals in the field of education and culture. The time will come, due to the law of nature, when higher education will be massive, will be universal; moreover, I think this is part of the essence of Marxism. When Marx and Engels talked about the future and a society in which differences would even disappear between manual and intellectual labor, this can also be possible to achieve in a society which has reached the universality of the broadest knowledge; that is, that practically the entire society has access to higher education. The time will come when achieving a university degree will not mean that society will employ the person because of that degree.

In the first years of the revolution, when we faced an enormous lack of technicians and qualified personnel, we desperately needed to increase the number of technicians. Now I ask: Should we limit ourselves to train university personnel exclusively in accordance with what a rational estimate dictates? Should there be 30,000 or 50,000 engineers only? Should we plan to train 30,000 or 50,000 engineers? An exact number of teachers? An exact number of economists? An exact number of historians? And when we reach that number, should we limit the university attendance? Then, we will have to tell someone: You cannot be an economist. That person wants to be an economist and have knowledge of the science of economics, or he wants to be a historian, or a sociologist or mathematician. I think very few want to be that. [laughter in the audience] Or they want to be physicians.

Should we limit man's aspirations to be better, the aspiration to study, the aspiration to obtain higher knowledge? Well, that could only be imagined in a feudal society where the people were born for each thing, but not in a socialist society. The time will come when even the post of engineer, historian or economist will be granted based on the record. This does not mean that the possibility of studying should be limited or suppressed. If a tractor operator wants to be a mechanical engineer, why should we stop him from being a mechanical engineer? If all Cuban tractor operators were mechanical engineers, it is possible that the tractors would be in better working condition. [laughter in audience] I am absolutely sure of that.

Let us not refer to the practical and material benefits alone which will unquestionably mean for the country the fact that the people en masse will reach higher levels of culture. There are still more important things--the spiritual wealth of the human being when higher levels of culture are achieved, the infinity of the spiritual horizons. We cannot conceive a more horrible thing than absolute ignorance, and I believe there is no human being who can resign himself to that. To reach the highest levels of knowledge doubtlessly is the highest satisfaction that any human being can experience. There is something that can already be detected in our country's environment, and that is a lot of new useful people who are outstanding everywhere they go. Something we can observe in our country are those new worthy people, comrades whose education is more and more solid, who are outstanding.

That can be observed everywhere in our country. We ask ourselves: What will it be like in 10 years, in 20 years? In a country where everybody had an opinion about anything, it is difficult today to have an opinion on anything, because wherever someone having the traces of a charlatan appears, he will always find well-educated people.

I believe there is something that has been proven to the students. The politicians in reactionary regimes who fight the students do not like the students to protest, fight, struggle and be in the opposition, and they say that the first duty of students is to study.

This is because they want the students in the classrooms and not in the streets. They do not want the students involved in demonstrations and revolution.

We--who do not have students in the streets, students organizing demonstrations, students making counterrevolution--say and say it with reason that one of the fundamental duties of students is to study, but I do not say it is the only duty. What do I mean by this? Every minute that is lost at your age is a crime, because actually one of the ways of serving the country and the people and of making revolution and building the future is devotion to study. We do not need mediocre engineers. We do not need mediocre doctors. We do not need mediocre professors. We do not need mediocre agronomists. I am certain that none of you, absolutely none of you, wants to be or would be satisfied with being a mediocre doctor, a mediocre engineer, a mediocre professor, a mediocre agronomist, a mediocre economist, and so forth.

There is something more important. The country needs the maximum development of the capabilities of each student. We speak of the present comparing it with the future, but our people and all the peoples of the world still have a difficult future. Our people and all the peoples and mankind have a difficult future. And the future problems of mankind are very serious ones. Mankind has many problems to solve--the world's health problems, energy problems, food problems, problems concerned with contamination of the environment, uncontrolled population growth, shortages of natural resources, dangers of all sorts, dangers derived from the aggressive nature of imperialism, dangers derived from the tremendous difference between the developed capitalist world and scores upon scores of underdeveloped nations and threats to peace. Are we not witnessing the incredible event of China's criminal war against Vietnam? Who would have imagined it? How many mistakes and how many blunders have been committed in that revolutionary process in China so that today its rulers are following an aggressive and fascist policy with imperialism?

In other words, the problems which mankind will have to face in the future are very big ones and involve very big risks. All these factors and all these realities must teach us, especially us as Cuban revolutionaries, what we should do and how we should do it to maintain the right path, maintain the revolution pure and clean and not ever separate ourselves from the revolutionary principles, not ever separate ourselves from the Marxist-Leninist principles and not ever separate ourselves from the internationalist principles.

What and how should be our contribution to the effort and struggle of the other peoples of the world? How can we make our contribution and whatever contributions are necessary to solve the future problems of our people and mankind? What do we need? We need two things. We need consciousness and we need knowledge. We need political consciousness and we need profound knowledge. And we need them from each and every one of us.

And who today, under the conditions of the revolution, has more possibilities to accumulate and develop knowledge than a student like you. The worker, after working 7 or 8 hours, devotes several hours to his studies. The political cadres of the party devote several hours to studies after working 8 and 10 hours. Everyone is going to schools, different types of schools, including political schools.

This is done independently from the work they perform, independently from the age. Which university student has the right to waste time if we understand these truths, if we understand these realities? Our cooperation throughout the world is developing more and more. The technical cooperation grows as if it were foam. The demands for Cuban technical services in other countries grows continuously. We are asked for physicians, engineers, economists, agronomists. We are asked for technicians of the most varied specialties.

When we send to any country, as a donation or because it is a country which has economic resources and can compensate us for that technical cooperation, when we send a technician, a university graduate, is it not true that every Cuban wants that technician to have the highest qualifications? Is it not true that the fatherland requires that such a technician have the highest qualifications? Is it not true that the country's honor and prestige, that our own honor is involved in the performance of that technician? Will the increasingly more complex problems being faced by the world be resolved with a mediocre training? With a mediocre education? Could they be solved without a profound capacity of analysis?

Could they be easily solved? Or simply solved? One needs only to reach the threshold of contemporary technology and science to ask oneself if it is possible to live in and know the world of the future without an enormous wealth of education and knowledge.

We believe that the students should ponder on this. If before one had to leave behind the books and the classroom to go out in the streets to fight, that does not mean that the struggle has disappeared for the new generations. The new generations face a still greater challenge than the one we faced, still greater than the one we faced. Today's struggle is to study to be able to respond to the immense challenge you will later face, to be able to perform successfully in the enormous struggles of all types you will later face.

No one should think that the hour of the revolution has ended. We had our hour of revolution but your hour of revolution begins now. It is just beginning, and no one should be saddened by thinking that the moment of the great struggles is over, that the moment of great heroism is over. Greater struggles and greater heroism will be demanded from the new generations if we are to understand the realities of our world and the realities of our present. There were youths who were lamenting not having been born before the Moncada assault or before the Sierra Maestra so that they could have participated in those struggles. But later on we had Giron. Later on we had the need to defend the revolution throughout all these years, and then came the internationalist missions, in which dozens of our compatriots had the opportunity to demonstrate their qualifications and courage.

Hundreds of young students of the Che Guevara internationalist detachment returned recently. [applause] What a pride for our revolution! What a pride for our youth! What a pride for our people to have a youth capable of fulfilling such tasks! What a pride to know that we have 25,000 youths in the educational detachment! What a satisfaction to recall our youth's rapid and energetic response, of our student youth which was capable of solving the insoluble problem of having teachers for those million intermediate-level students! You can observe that every day, every instant. Every moment needs emerge that demand spirit and revolutionary awareness, that demand disposition, that demand courage, that demand knowledge.

That is why we tell our young students, we mention to them that the future is filled with tasks, that the future is full of struggles, that it demands awareness, that it demands disposition, that it demands revolutionary spirit and that it demands education. We know that we have an extraordinary youth. One needs only to come here and establish contact with you to learn how much enthusiasm, how much joy, how much vigor, how much quality can be found in you, the university students.

You have forced me to speak, but also I have the right to ask something, and it is this. It is nothing new. [applause] [It is] that all of you, that each of you make a commitment to be equal to Jose Antonio Echeverria; that each of you make a commitment to be equal to Jukio Antonio Mella, [prolonged applause] in revolutionary spirit and in your work, efforts and studies. I am deeply convinced that in each of you there is a Mella, there is a Jose Antonio.

I had the opportunity of knowing Jose Antonio at the university in the first months of the coup d'etat of 1952. He was young, friendly, happy, enthusiastic. He was like you. He and many like him died to become a tree. They died to become seeds. Or, as Mella wanted, they died to be useful by serving as a banner. [prolonged applause] And you, today's university students, are the fruits of that tree, the bearers of that banner. [applause] Fatherland or death, we will win. [prolonged applause]

Conclusion of Event

FL140323 [Editorial Report FL] Fidel Castro concludes his speech at 0315 GMT. The Internationale is played after Castro ends his speech, and the cameras intermittently focus on the audience and a portrait of Jose Antonio Echevarria. Castro then waves to the audience and leaves the stage as the curtains close. Coverage ends immediately thereafter at 0319 GMT.

BRIEFS

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME--In accordance with the Council of Ministers Executive Council meeting held on 23 February, the summertime schedule will begin on the third Saturday of this month, 17 March, and will last through the second Sunday of October, 14 October. The establishment of the summertime schedule will be considered the sole official time throughout the national territory. Therefore, at 2400 on Saturday, 17 March, [0500 GMT 18 March] the clock's hands should be advanced one hour, making it one o'clock on the following day. It is believed that with the implementation of this time schedule the national economy will save 76,780,000 kilowats, which means 27,000 tons less fuel needed to generate electric energy. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1705 GMT 13 Mar 79 FL]

GRENADA

GOVERNMENT 'OVERTHROWN' IN NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT COUP

Revolutionary Government Announcement

OW131412 Paris AFP in English 1408 GMT 13 Mar 79 OW

[Text] Grenada, 13 Mar (AFP)--The government of Prime Minister Eric Gairy was overthrown today in what appeared to be the first ever coup d'etat in the Commonwealth Caribbean, an official announcement said. The announcement did not say who had staged the coup, but it said the four-year-old nation's entire army had surrendered and a new cabinet will be formed.

The announcement said free and fair elections would be held without delay. Most of the nation's police were cooperating with the "new revolutionary government" it added.

Prime Minister Gairy's fate was not known. Other Cabinet members were reported to be in police custody. Several police were said to have been arrested. Police stations were said to be flying white flags to indicate they were cooperating with the new authorities.

So far, no individual in the revolutionary government has been identified. The announcements were made in the name of "the commander."

New Jewel Movement Role

FL131620 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The opposition New Jewel Movement has claimed responsibility for this morning's coup in Grenada. In an interview with Radio Antilles, New Jewel Movement's leader Maurice Bishop said he had led the coup. In addition, reports given in this morning's broadcast say a new revolutionary government has been set up [words indistinct] the opposition M.P. for St Georges Mr [word indistinct] reports coming in from the Caribbean news agencies say that one man was killed and another wounded during the takeover. Prime Minister Eric Gairy, who has long been condemned by other governments of the region for his iron rule, left Grenada for New York yesterday.

Eric Gairy Statement

PA131832 Paris AFP in Spanish 1729 GMT 13 Mar 79 PA

[Text] New York, 13 Mar (AFP)--Grenadian Prime Minister Eric Gairy denied here today that he has been overthrown by a coup d'etat and announced that he has requested the aid of the United States and Great Britain to capture a "small group of communists" who have revolted in his country.

Gairy, who is in New York for business at the United Nations, said in statements made by telephone from his room at the Hilton Hotel that he has been in contact with his government and that the rebels "have only managed to take over the radio station."

According to the rebels who were broadcasting over Radio Grenada, the Gairy government has been overthrown, and the ministers of security and economy, Paul Donovan and Norman Desousa, respectively, have been arrested, along with police officers who support the government.

According to the rebels, the prisoners are being treated "humanely and with dignity."

Gairy said that the radio station was taken over by the New Jewel Movement [NJM] which, he said, "Is communist, has some 1,000 members and was formed in 1972 with the sole objective of overthrowing me."

The prime minister said that the U.S. State Department has "the responsibility" of aiding his government, since the rebellion occurred partly because of the arrival of two U.S. agents in the Grenadian capital on Monday.

According to Gairy, the two agents arrived to investigate the case of two U.S. citizens who were arrested on charges of transporting weapons and ammunition from Washington to Grenada.

"I believe that the NJM realized that with the pressure of the U.S. investigation, a net would close around them" and break up their movement, the prime minister said.

The prime minister believes that this is what led the rebels to initiate the movement which erupted today.

Meanwhile, reports from the West Indian archipelago indicated that the only local airline--the Liat--had suspended its flights while waiting for the situation to be clarified.

No details are available regarding the whereabouts of the rebel leaders, and certain reports indicate that the situation is relatively calm in St George's, the capital of Grenada.

Gairy, 56, said for his part that he will continue his business at the United Nations in New York, which is unrelated to the unexpected crisis that occurred today, while in Washington newsmen are awaiting the daily press conference of the State Department spokesman to obtain details regarding the situation in the Caribbean.

Conflicting Reports

FL140529 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 14 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Reports conflict on whether the government of the Caribbean Island of Grenada has been overthrown. Grenada opposition leader Maurice Bishop claims he assumed control of the country, but he admits there is some opposition to his new government.

In New York, a Grenada spokesman told newsmen that Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy is still in power. However, the spokesman said that terrorists in Grenada have taken over guns and ammunition from an army camp and seized the island's radio station and airport in a take-over attempt. The spokesman said that Prime Minister Gairy, who also is in New York, has appealed to the United States of America, Canada and Great Britain to help crush the attempt.

Earlier, a radio station calling itself Radio Free Grenada broadcast appeals to police to surrender their weapons. The broadcast said Grenada's army had surrendered, and it promised free and fair elections on the island soon.

The United States Embassy in Barbados is concerned that an attempt is being made to overthrow the Grenada Government, but it could not say if the attempt has succeeded.